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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

Programme 3
Disarmament

1. At its 7th meeting, on 2 June 2016, the Committee considered programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 3) and Corr.1-3). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework, contained in conference room paper E/AC.51/2016/CRP.1/Rev.1.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and the important work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

4. Clarification was sought on the changes proposed as well as the associated mandates. Delegations expressed concern regarding the choice of wording and the content of the programme and noted that the formulation contained in the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 was more accurate. Discussions at the fifty-fourth session of the Committee had resulted in specific language proposals that were ultimately included in the approved programme plan for the period 2016-2017, but which had not been included in the proposed strategic framework for the

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period 2018-2019. The value of repeating the same exercise at each session of the Committee was questioned and the need for language endorsed by the General Assembly to be included in future documents was recalled.

5. Imbalances in the level of detail provided for each subprogramme were observed. In that regard, it was considered that a better balance in the drafting of the content of subprogrammes was necessary. In particular, for subprogramme 2, Weapons of mass destruction, a more general format had been used to reflect the goals, achievements and strategies as compared to subprogramme 3, Conventional arms (including practical disarmament measures).

6. The view was expressed that some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement put forward in the programme did not fall within the purview of the Secretariat or were inappropriate.

7. The decisions of the General Assembly to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament, as well as to commemorate and promote 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, were highlighted.

8. Under subprogramme 1, Multilateral negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament, some delegations were of the view that expected accomplishment (a), relating to effective negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament and in conferences and meetings of States parties to various multilateral agreements on disarmament, arms limitation and non-proliferation in all its aspects, at the organizational, procedural and substantive levels, fell within the authority of Member States, not the Secretariat. Accordingly, the view was expressed that there was a need to refine the wording of that expected accomplishment.

9. Under subprogramme 2, the view was expressed that indicator of achievement (b) (iii), relating to the increased number of Member States offering to support training for experts nominated to the roster maintained by the Secretary-General in accordance with the established mandate, did not appear to correlate with the strategy contained in paragraph 3.9 (a). It was also stressed that the reference to General Assembly resolution 42/37 C as being the relevant mandate was incorrect and needed to be rectified. Clarification was sought as to the appropriateness of including transparency and confidence-building in outer space activities under the strategy of the subprogramme, as well as the nature of those activities and their placement under subprogramme 2 rather than under subprogramme 1.

10. Under subprogramme 3, clarification was sought on the relevant mandate for strengthening cooperation with regard to the issue of improvised explosive devices (para. 3.10 (e)). Doubt was expressed as to whether that particular activity stemmed from a mandate.

11. The view was expressed that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda was universal and, in that connection, clarification was sought on the impact of the 2030 Agenda on the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 3.3

Replace paragraph 3.3 with

"Within the Secretariat, substantive responsibility for the programme is vested in the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The strategy of the Office in meeting the programme's objectives is designed around five subprogrammes and is based on its role in and responsibility for facilitating and encouraging, as appropriate, measures aimed at disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects and at all levels, in particular weapons of mass destruction. The Office will continue to assist Member States in promoting, strengthening and consolidating multilaterally negotiated principles and norms in all areas of disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. It will support efforts of Member States in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects in order to promote international peace and security and contribute to global efforts against terrorism. The Office will enhance its capacity for more in-depth analysis, keeping track of developments in those areas, and provide Member States with timely and practical advice, as requested".

Paragraph 3.5

Replace the second sentence with

"This will include providing substantive organizational support to the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and other subsidiary bodies of the Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament and its subsidiary bodies, review conferences and other meetings of parties to multilateral disarmament agreements, as required by States parties to such instruments and entities, and those convened by the Assembly in the field of disarmament, as well as to expert groups mandated by the Assembly."

Subprogramme 1
Multilateral negotiations and deliberations on disarmament and arms limitation

Objective of the Organization

At the end of the objective, insert "and to provide support as required by States parties to the existing multilateral agreements in those areas".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), insert "support to" after "Effective".

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with "Effective support for the timely implementation of decisions, recommendations and programmes of action adopted by the General Assembly and by conferences and meetings of States parties to various multilateral disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation agreements".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (b) (i) with "Improved reporting by States parties on their steps to implement treaty obligations, decisions, recommendations and programmes of action, as required".

Replace indicator of achievement (c) (i) with "Increased percentage of Member States, in particular from developing countries, and female candidates, participating in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme".

Strategy

Paragraph 3.8

At the end of subparagraph 3.8 (a), insert "and to expert groups mandated by the General Assembly".

Subprogramme 2
Weapons of mass destruction

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective with "To promote and support the efforts for disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and to assist Member States, at their request, in supporting existing treaties and mandates related to weapons of mass destruction".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with

"Effective and enhanced facilitation of the process of negotiations, deliberations and consensus-building on the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, on disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects, delivery systems and outer space, and universality of international instruments dealing with weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, by Member States and States parties, at their request".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (b) (ii) with "Number of visits to and page views of the Branch's website".

Delete indicator of achievement (b) (iii).

Strategy

Paragraph 3.9

Replace subparagraph (a) with

"Supporting Member States in their negotiations, deliberations and consensus-building in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular

nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, as well as assisting Member States, at their request, in their efforts to achieve the full implementation and universalization of multilateral agreements and to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring weapons of mass destruction".

In subparagraph (c), insert "of disarmament and non-proliferation" after "area".

Delete subparagraph (e).

Subprogramme 3
Conventional arms (including practical disarmament measures)

Objective of the Organization

Insert "and transparency" after "mutual confidence".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with "Effective facilitation of implementation by Member States of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects using available tools, within the agreed mandate".

In expected accomplishment (b), insert "and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons" after "Light Weapons in All Its Aspects".

In expected accomplishment (c), replace "Increased" with "Effective facilitation of the".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) with "Degree of satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of organizational and substantive services provided, as expressed by Member States".

Strategy

Paragraph 3.10

Delete subparagraph (a).

Replace subparagraph (c) with "Supporting efforts of the United Nations system to address the challenges posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons through the inter-agency Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism".

In subparagraph (e), replace "Strengthening" with "Facilitating".